



Republican Policy Committee

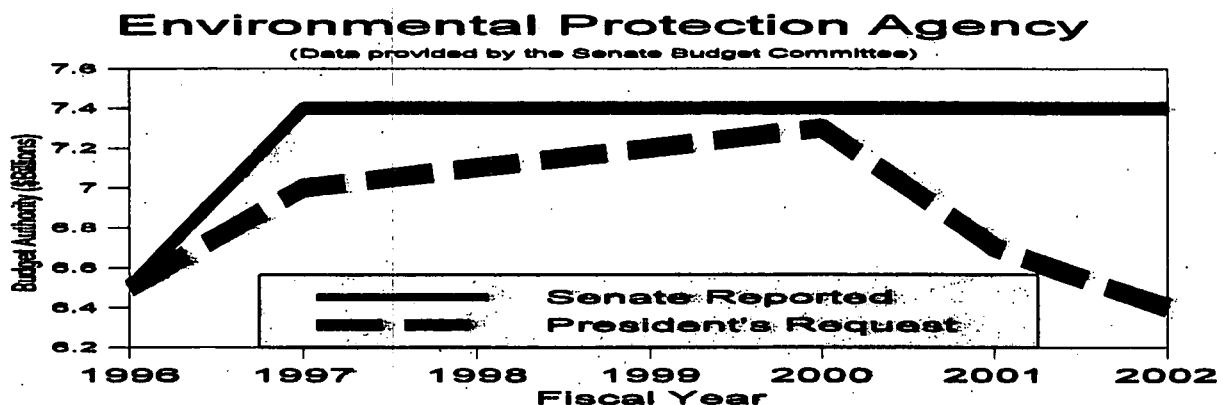
Don Nickles, Chairman Doug Badger, Staff Director 347 Russell Senate Office Building (202)224-2946 <http://www.senate.gov/~rpc/>
May 23, 1996

Senate Budget Better for EPA than Clinton's

Since last summer, the Clinton Administration and the Washington-based environmental lobby relentlessly have accused Congress of "rolling back" environmental protections and preventing Superfund site cleanups. Yet, *the Senate budget resolution provides more for EPA in every year than does the President's budget.* It provides \$400 million more than the President's request for 1997 — a 14-percent increase over the FY96 enacted amount. **Counting the Superfund reserve fund, the Senate-reported resolution provides \$2.6 billion more for EPA over the next six years than the Clinton budget proposal.**

Because of the "spend now, cut later" approach of the Clinton budget, the President's discretionary trigger will be activated in 2001 and 2002, resulting in a 10.7-percent reduction in aggregate budget authority in 2001 and an 18.3-percent reduction in budget authority in 2002. Under the Clinton budget, EPA will go under the knife as will all other non-defense agencies. While claiming superiority for its environmental spending, the Administration has been overstating its funding for EPA, and ignoring its proposed discretionary trigger's proportional decreases in 2001 and 2002 — amounting to \$2.2 billion from EPA.

The Senate budget includes full funding for the Superfund program, noting that this clearly broken program must be reformed to limit the waste of taxpayer dollars currently going for EPA overhead and lawyers instead of cleanup (less than half of all appropriated Superfund dollars have gone to actual cleanup). The Senate budget provides that if Superfund reform legislation becomes law and the now-expired Superfund excise taxes are revived, the Senate resolution will provide an additional \$5.4 billion for Superfund — \$4.8 billion more over the next six years than would the President's budget request. And, it does not impose conditions (such as modifications to retroactive liability) on what constitutes "reform."



Staff Contact: Mark Whiteman, 224-2946